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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,020	01/29/2004	Christopher A. Baker	F-795	4716

919 7590 01/08/2007

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EXAMINER

TAYLOR, BARRY W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/08/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/767,020		BAKER ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Barry W. Taylor		2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/3/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Burgess (2004/0031846).

Regarding claim 1. Burgess teaches a method for collecting mailpiece identification and tracking information (abstract, figure 1), said method including the steps of:

providing a database for storing mailpiece data (see DATABASE item 12 figure 1);

storing a mailpiece identification code in said database (see PlanetID stored in database 12 figure 1), wherein said mailpiece identification code is associated with a mailpiece prior to being delivered to a postal authority for distribution thereof (see figure 1 wherein DATABASE item 12 stores mailpiece identification code "Planet ID" and another mailpiece identification code "UserID" before it is scanned at USPS mail processing machines 16 figure 1);

storing at least another mailpiece identification information other than said identification code in said database and associating it with said mailpiece's identification code stored in said database (see figure 1 wherein DATABASE item 12 stores mailpiece identification code "Planet ID" and another mailpiece identification code "UserID"); ; and

storing mailpiece tracking details as compiled by a postal authority during processing of said mailpiece in said database and in association with it's stored mailpiece identification code and another mailpiece identification information (see figure 1 wherein when mailpiece image is scanned via USPS mail processing machines 16 and forwarded to DATABASE 12 so additional information from USPS mail processing machines may be stored in DATABASE item 12 --- paragraphs 0003 – 0007, 0010 – 0016).

Regarding claim 2. Burgess teaches a method as recited in claim 1 wherein the mailpiece identification code and another mailpiece identification information are stored simultaneously in said database (see figure 1 wherein USPS item 10 creates Unique PlanetID to be stored with another mailpiece data (i.e. UserID) in DATABASE 12 prior to it being printed on the mail piece by the mailer 13 figure 1).

Regarding claim 3. Burgess teaches a method as recited in claim 1 wherein said mailpiece identification code is a PLANET CODE (see PlanetID located in DATABASE 12 figure 1).

Regarding claim 4. Burgess teaches a method as recited in claim 1 wherein said database (item 12) is remote from a postal authority database (see USPS item 10 figure 1 linked to remote DATABASE 12 via Internet 11) implemented for compiling mailpiece tracking details.

Regarding claim 5. Burgess teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein said stored mailpiece identification and tracking information is accessible to a user via the internet (see Postal Agency LAN or Internet 18 figure 1 used to provide mailers with mailpiece tracking data, paragraph 0003 also reveals mailers can query mailpiece databases via Internet as well) .

Regarding claim 6. Burgess teaches a method as recited in claim 1, wherein said database (see DATABASE located remotely via Internet link 11 from the mailpiece generating device 10 figure 1 which generates the PlanetID (i.e. mailpiece identification code)) is remote from and in communication with a mailpiece generating device for receiving said mailpiece identification code.

Regarding claim 7. Burgess teaches a method as recited in claim 6, wherein said database is remote from and in communication with said postal authority for receiving said mailpiece tracking details (see figure 1 wherein DATABASE 12 is remote from and in communication with Postal Agency LAN 18 for receiving mailpiece tracking details from USPS mail processing machines 16).

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Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor, telephone number (571) 272-7509, who is available Monday-Thursday, 6:30am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost, can be reached at (571) 272-7872. The central facsimile phone number for this group is **571-273-8300**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2600 receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600, the 2600 Customer Service telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Centralized Delivery Policy: For patent related correspondence, hand carry deliveries must be made to the Customer Service Window (now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), and facsimile transmissions must be sent to the central fax number (571-273-8300).

Barry W. Taylor
Art Unit 2617


BARRY TAYLOR
PRIMARY EXAMINER